G R A N T H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1908.

To the Chairman and Members.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with Instructions from the Local Government Board, I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District, together with other information dealing with the administration of the various Acts for the maintenance of Public Health. I submit a brief summary of the vital statistics, before entering into further details.

S U M M A R Y.

Area or Rural District	85,827 acres.
Rateable Value	£118,042.
Population-Census 1901	13,158
Population-Estimated 1908	12,550
Birth rate per 1,000	22.4
Death rate per 1,000	14.1
Death Rate of infants under one year per 1,000	96.
Illegitimate Births	15.

Your district may be described as typically agricultural, the large majority of the inhabitants being associated with the farming of land. Occupation of this nature leads naturally to a healthy life, and the returns for the year, both as to disease and mortality confirm this statement.

House accomodation in your district is, on the whole, satisfactory. Several villages are quite "model" in this respect,

others, however, far from being so. Two cases of overcrowding were dealt with, the result in each case being satisfactory, the owner buliding a new wing to the house in one case, and in the other case three cottages were transformed into two well-equipped houses. During the year, five new houses were erected in your district, viz., Wesleyan Schools and Chapel at Bottesford, two cottages at Stroxton, and two cottages at Stoke Hollow. All these dwellings were inspected, and found to comply with the Bye-Laws. It is worth noting that, in spite of the popular idea that rural districts within the United Kingdom are becoming depleted of their inhabitants, it is very rare to find an unoccupied cottage within your District.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

It was stated in last year's Report that the water supply of your District was, as far as had been ascertained, satisfactory. A considerable number of analyses made this year show striking differences in purity in different localities. In the case of three villages,-Barrowby, Honington, and Sapperton-, there are wells which appear to be polluted. Active steps are being taken at Sapperton to produce a more wholesome supply. During the year, a Sub-Committee of the Council investigated the condition of the water supply of Great Ponton, and presented a scheme, which was adopted, to minimise the danger of pollution of the springs in question.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Cow-sheds and Dairies within your District have been inspected, and instructions given when necessary, to comply with the 1907 Order. In very nearly every case an alteration was required in the drainage of the Cow-sheds.

No complaints have been made to your Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector with regard to the character, etc. of milk produced in your area, nor have any proceedings been taken by your Council.

OTHER FOODS.

Routine inspection has not revealed any defects, requiring

the intervention of your Authority.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

During the year, work has been carried in 10 parishes, in regard to Sewers and Outfall. It is hoped that gradually the disposal of sewage and excrement will become more efficiently carried out. At the present time your Sanitary Officers endeavour to convert the existing "middens" into pail closets, and abate nuisances when discovered.

An important Sewage Scheme in the parish of Barrowby will be dealt with in the next Annual Report.

Action has been taken by the Council in respect of an alleged pollution of a stream in the parish of Colsterworth, but at the present time a definite result has not been obtained.

20 Notices to abate nuisances have been served during the year, the result being satisfactory in each case.

SCHOOLS.

Systematic visiting of various Schools has been carried out during the year. The Medical Inspection of School Children does not come within the scope of your Council, but it is anticipated that the working of this new Act will in the near future have a beneficial effect on the health of School Children, and ultimately greatly assist the cause of Public Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year amounts to 281, of which 136 were males, and 145 females, the latter thus slightly preponderating, an unusual fact, and one which also occurred last year. There were 15 illegitimate births-6 males, 9 females.

The birth rate per thousand for the year is 22.4, being

below the average-23.08-for the preceding ten years.

The number of deaths during the year was 177, the average for the preceding ten years being 175, the death rate being 14-1, as compared with 13.8 for the preceding ten years.

The number of deaths of children under the age of one year is 27. This represents a rate of 96 per 1,000 births registered, and is below the average-105-of the preceding ten years.

A few remarks may be made on these preceding figures. The number of births registered is lower than it has been for seven years, but the difference is not great. Of deaths, it may be noted that of the total number of 177, 69 occurred above the age of 65.

With regard to the important question of infantile mortality, the rate 96 per 1,000 births may be considered satisfactory, especially when it is noted that 5 of the 27 deaths were due to whooping cough, of which the type of disease was very virulent during certain portions of the year.

The Early Notification of Births Act has not been adopted in your district.

Accidents and Suicides were responsible for 9 deaths during the year, an inquest being held in each case.

Of other causes of death at all ages, it may be remarked that cancer in its various forms caused 17 deaths, in 12 cases pulmonary tuberculosis was the cause, and other tuberculous diseases had a fatal issue in 5 cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified

during the year was 47, viz.,-

Smallpox	8 cases.
Dipththeria	10 cases.
Erysipelas	5 cases.
Scarlet Fever	19 cases.
Enteric Fever	5 cases.

The year will be memorable for the ourbreak of small pox at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. The various facts concerning this epidemic have been fully reported by your Medical Officer both to your Council and by special reports to the Local Government Board. Immediate measures were taken to isolate the patients, as soon as the presence of the disease was discovered. Two cottages were taken, and the patients transferred to one of them, and "contacts" removed to the other one, whilst the infected houses were thoroughly cleaned and fumigated, and the bedding used by the patients was burnt.. Vaccination was carried out most efficiently throughout the village and surrounding parts.

The results of the measures adopted were most satisfactory. Although eight cases were rapidly notified, and a big epidemic feared, no other case occurred in which infection took place after the period when the sanitary Authorities took active steps to combat the disease. The eight patients were under the care of Dr. J. A. Macdonald, to whom your Council passed a vote of thanks for the devoted services rendered by him. Five of the cases were of a very severe type of disease, and one proved fatal.

The impressions left by this epidemic may be recorded-

(1) Small Pox may be introduced without any warning into a sheltered hamlet far from the busy paths of life.

(2) A man may walk about a village for several days horribly disfigured by small-pox (children being frightened by his appearance) without the disease being recognised.

(3) An epidemic of this disease strongly emphasises the

need of a permanent Isolation Hospital. This has been recognised by your Council with the result that a building of this nature has now been completed.

(4) All measures taken to combat small pox must be considered of subsidiary importance to Vaccination.

Of other cases of notifiable disease, little need be said. There has been no epidemic during the year. There was one fatal case of diphtheria. Enteric Fever was notified in five instances, occurring in three separate localities. Your Medical Officer, as the result of his enquiries, came to the conclusion that in each of the cases infection was not due to any local insanitary cause.

Three of these patients were transferred to the Grantham Hospital, where one died from a very severe type of the disease.

Of diseases infectious, but not notifiable, whooping cough was responsible for ten deaths, and the influence of this disease on infantile mortality has already been noted.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

On receipt of a notification of infectious disease, the premises are visited by your Medical Officer, and steps are taken to isolate the patient, properly disinfect the premises, withdraw any children of the household from attendance at Schools, and if necessary to prohibit certain occupations of adults, and, finally, when the disease is over the premises are thoroughly disinfected. Additional precautions have been taken on a few occasions during the year, in recommending the closure of certain schools for a fixed period.

Your Council now possesses an Isolation Hospital, substantially built of brick, which will hold 12 patients.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No steps have been taken up to the present time by

your Council in regard to the Notification of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and the only official knowledge is obtained by the number of deaths occurring annually from the diseaes.

Under the New 1908 Regulations, information of the occurrence of such disease amongst inmates of Poor Law Institutions and those in receipt of parish relief will be supplied to your Medical Officer of Health.

These regulations obviously mark an important step towards more vigorous means to combat the disease. There is no existing hospital accomodation in your district for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

REPORT FOR HOME OFFICE.

There are no factories in your district. There are 80 Workshops, which have received the attention required by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. No defects have been found during the year.

Systematic inspections have been made on frequent occasions during the year by your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector. The Sanitary Inspector's report is appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS.

GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES for the year 1908.

To
Dr. C. H. D. Robbs,
Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF WORKS AS CARRIED OUT BY H. C. RUDKIN.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED:-

1. Wesleyan Schools and Chapel, Colsterworth,
3. Two Cottages, Stroxton,
5. Two Cottages, Stoke Rochford (Hollows).

NUISANCES CALLING FOR ABATEMENT:-

1. 6 Cottages (drains),	parish of	Barrowby,
2. Private drain,	" "	Osgodby,
3. Drain to Premises,	" "	Colsterworth,
4. Drains to 4 Houses,	" "	Gonerby Hill Foot,
5. Farmyards, etc.	" "	Great Ponton,
6. Houses insanitary,	" "	Ancaster,
7. Cottages insanitary,	" "	Little Ponton,
8. Houses insanitary,	" "	Pretoria Road, Gonerby Hill Foot,
9. Private Outfall ditch,	" "	Pickworth,
10. Drain to Clay's Cottages,	" "	Great Gonerby,
11. Cottages and property,	" "	Manthorpe,
12. House without drain,	" "	Ingoldsby,
13. House premises,	" "	Sapperton,
14. Houses insanitary,	" "	Little Ponton.

Roughly-20 Notices served.

SEWAGE AND OTHER OUTFALL WORKS TO THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:-

1. Hough-on-the-Hill; 2. Pickworth; 3. Denton;
4. Ingoldsby; 5. Harlaxton; 6. Barrowby; 7. Manthorpe;
8. Great Gonerby; 9. Sudbrook; 10. Ropsley.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Inspector of Nuisances (Continued).

EXPLOSIVES:-

Condensed acetylene plant to Woolsthorpe Church.

Note:-Wish to call attention that Applications have not been received to keep Petroleum for private Light Locomotives.

NEW COWSHEDS:-

1. At Easton Hall Farm. (15 Cows).
2. "Daily Mail" Farm. (3 cows).
3. Hollows Farm, Stoke Rochford. (60 cows).

POLLUTED WELLS, etc.:-

New Parish Well being sunk at Sapperton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

SPECIAL-Small pox at Woolsthorpe, clothing destroyed, houses stoved and limewashed, Schools disinfected, Ironstone huts disinfected, general disinfectants, etc. etc.

Cases of Typhoid, Scarlatina, Erysipelas, etc., and general infectious cases stamped out.

MAIN FACTORS:-

NEW ISOLATION HOSPITAL built on Whalebone Lane to accomodate 12 patients and 2 or more Residential Nurses. The same will be ready to receive cases towards the end of February.

SEWAGE OUTFALL TREATMENT is now in hand for Barrowby Parish, expected to be working by April, 1909.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District-GRANTHAM RURAL.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS. Number	BIRTHS. Rate.	TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the District. Under 1 year. No.	Under 1 year. Rate per 1,000 births registered.	At all ages. No.	At all ages. Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.
1898.	13177	288	21.35	38	131.7	194	14.76
1899.	13160	313	23.86	34	108.2	201	15.27
1900	13153	306	21-25	28	91.5	178	13.6
1901.	12426	277	22.27	33	117.1	171	13.76
1902.	12444	307	24.8	36	116.5	171	13.74
1903.	12500	312	24.7	20	96.18	136	10.88
1904.	12509	303	24.22	28	92.46	167	13.35
1905.	12517	302	23.32	38	125.7	167	13.5
1906.		No	data	to	hand.		
1907.	12525	304	24.3		No	data.	
Averages for years 1898-1907.	12713	301.4	23.08	32.3	105	175	13.8.
1908.	12550	281	22.4	27	96	177	14.1

Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 85,827.

Total population at all ages 12,426.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the district.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District
Isolation Hospital, belonging to Grantham Union	Hospital, Grantham. Union W'house, do.	

Is the Union Workhouse within the district ?-No.

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District-GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES. 1. WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births registered. b.	Deaths at all ages. c.	Deaths under 1 year. d.
1898	13177	288	194	38.
1899	13160	313	201	34
1900	13158	306	178	28
1901	12426	277	171	33
1902	12444	307	171	36
1903	12500	312	136	20
1904	12509	303	167	28
1905	12517	302	167	38
1906	No data	-	-	-
1907	12525	304	No data.	
Averages of years 1898 to 1907.	12713	301.4	175	32.8.
1908	12550	281	177	27.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Name of District-GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.			
	AT ALL AGES.	At ages-Years. Under 1.	1to5.	5to15.	15to25.	25to65.	65 & upds.	1.	2.	3.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Small-pox	8	-	-	1	-	7	-	8	-	-	8
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	10	-	4	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	19	-	3	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric do.	5	-	-	2	2	1	-	3	-	-	3
Relapsing do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Continued do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	47	-	7	18	7	14	1	11	-	-	11.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL: Name and Situation-Temporary,

Woolsthorpe.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.						
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & un25.	25 & un 65.	65 upw
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.
Small-pox	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	10	5	5	-	-	-	-
Diptheria(including Membranous croup)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Croup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fever)Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
)Enteric	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
)Other cont^{d}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Epidemic Influenza	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12	-	-	-	4	8	-
Other tuberculosis diseases	5	-	-	1	-	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease	17	-	-	-	-	10	7
Bronchitis	17	5	2	-	-	5	5
Pneumonia	5	1	2	-	-	2	-
Pleurisy	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Venereal diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature birth	6	6	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases & Accidents of parturition	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Heart diseases	21	-	-	-	1	8	12
Accidents	8	1	1	-	-	4	2
Suicides	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Old age	26	-	-	-	-	-	26
Apoplexy	14	-	-	1	-	4	9
Nephritis	4	-	1	-	-	2	1
Epilepsy	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Uncertified	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other causes	18	6	3	-	-	5	4
ALL CAUSES	177	27	15	2	6	58	69.